export price in view of its low price elasticity and to encourage setting up fresh plantations of long-gestation period trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Neither the Export Policy on Red Sanders Wood has been changed nor have the restrictions on export of Red Sander Wood been lifted. Its export is allowed 'On Merits' subject to the following conditions:—

(i) In respect of Red Sanders Wood from Andhra Pradesh, Certificate of Origin is to be issued by the Chief Conservator of Forests Andhra Pradesh. Certificate given by any other authority is not accepted;

(ii) In respect of Red Sanders Wood from Tamil Nadu, Certificate of Origin is to be issued by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu, Certificate given by any other authority is not to be accepted.

Application are export of Red Sanders Wood i.e. processed Timber are considered by the Export Licensing Committee chaired by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

(b) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Amalgamation of banks

1193. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amalgamate any bank during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details of proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no proposal at present for amalgamation of any bank.

(b) Does not arise.

Bank advances outstanding towards small scale industries

1194. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the outstanding advances of public sector banks to small scale industries as on the 29th March, 1991; and

(b) what measures are being taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the provisional data compiled by them, the total outstanding advances by public sector banks to small scale industries as on 29th March, 1991 were Rs. 16,782.99 crores spread over 31.04 lakh borrowal accounts.

(b) The public sector banks have been instructed by RBI to review all borrowal accounts periodically. whenever conduct of an individual account reveals irregularities, steps are taken to regularise the advance and if they fail, loans are recalled and various measures taken to recover the dues including resorting to legal proceedings against the borrowers and the guarantors, if any.

Identification on non-small scale industries units by banks

1195. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of non-small scale industries units identified by the banks during the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 so far;

(b) what is the outstanding bank credit against such units; and

(c) what measures have been taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Protection to upcountry jute mills

1196. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that placement of DGS&D orders for supply of B. Twill bags are now connected to exports of Jute Goods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to protect the upcountry jute mills established for decades and developed for manufacture of sackings only meant for domestic consumption; and

(d) whether Government propose to exempt such upcountry jute mills from export commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to generate export of jute goods to General Currency Areas (GCA), Government has imposed export obligation on jute mills which are being provided with orders for supply of B. Twill bags to DGS&D under Palekar Pricing Formula. The scheme would be operated as follows:

(i) A portion of the indented quantity will be reserved for jute mills having GCA export of Rs. 5 crore and above in 1990-91 which undertake to achieve a minimum growth rate of 5 per cent in quantitative terms in 1991-92 over the level achieved in 1990-91.

(ii) The balance quantity would be allocated to all presently eligible jute mills subject to the condition that upto the end of 1991-92 i.e. March, 1992, non-exporting units would export not less than 3 per cent of their total production of jute goods either directly and/or indirectly to GCA and exporting units would achieve atleast 5 per cent growth in their export of jute goods to GCA in terms of quantity over the level reached in 1990-91.

(c) Jute mills not presently having any export production have been allowed the flexibility of procuring the goods from the market for fulfilling for condition of exporting 3 per cent of their production to GCA on their own account.

(d) Government will consider and take appropriate action when requests for exemption from export obligation are received from upcountry jute mills.

Malpractices in Sadar Bazar (Delhi) branch of Punjab and Sind Bank

1197. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manager of the Sadar Bazar (Delhi) branch of Punjab and Sind Bank who was earlier transferred has been suspended for mismanagement and malpractices resulting in transfer of about rupees one crore and forty-six lakhs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether all those responsible for this have been dealt with and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.